**English Translation of Annex to the IPER**

## Claims

1. A dampening device (10) for ball game rackets comprising a base body (16) made of foam material and a connecting means (18; 24, 26) formed such that the dampening device (10) can be fixed relatively loosely to at least two longitudinal strings (4) of a ball game racket without substantially coupling the strings with each other.

2. The dampening device (10) according to claim 1, which is configured such that it can be fixed to four longitudinal strings (4) of a ball game racket without substantially coupling the strings with each other.

3. The dampening device (10) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the base body (16) is elongate or tape-shaped.

4. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the connecting means (18, 24, 26) are provided on a side of the base body (16).

5. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which is reusable due to a connecting means (18, 24, 26) which can be reopened.

6. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the connecting means is formed as an adhesive layer (18) provided on the base body (16), preferably as a releasable and/or repositionable adhesive layer.

7. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the connecting means is formed as a mechanical closure (24, 26) preferably in the form of a hook and loop closure.

8. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the base body (16) for embracing the at least two longitudinal strings (4) consists of one part.

9. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the base body (16) consists of several parts, in particular two parts, and wherein the base body parts (16-1, 16-2) can be fixed opposite each other in such a way that the at least two longitudinal strings (4) are enclosed therebetween.

10. The dampening device (10) according to claim 9, wherein a first base body part (16-1) comprises a first part (24) of the mechanical closure and a second base body part (16-2) comprises a second part (26) of the mechanical closure which are engageable with each other.

11. The dampening device (10) according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the base body parts (16-1, 16-2) comprises an adhesive layer (18-1, 18-2) for a connection with the other base body part (16-2, 16-1).

12. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 9, wherein the mechanical closure extends essentially along the entire length of the base body (16) of the base body parts (16-1, 16-2) and comprises essentially identical hook elements (24) which are engageable with each other.

13. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) is made of open-cell or closed-cell foam.

14. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) has a bulk density between 10 and 1000 $kg/m^3$, preferably between 100 and 500 $kg/m^3$.

15. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) has a thermal conductivity between 0.03 and 0.05 W/mK.

16. The dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the foam material of the base body (16) is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polyurethane, urea formaldehyde, phenol formaldehyde, epoxy resin and silicone.

17. A ball game racket comprising at least one dampening device (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the ball game racket has strings comprising longitudinal strings (4) and transverse strings (6) and wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to at least two of the longitudinal strings (4) and embraces them relatively loosely without substantially coupling the strings with each other.

18. The ball game racket according to claim 17, wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to the longitudinal strings (4) in an area outside the transverse strings (6).

19. The ball game racket according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to the longitudinal strings (4) in an area between the heart portion (8) of the ball game racket and the transverse string (6*) being closest to the heart portion.

20. The ball game racket according to any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the dampening device (10) is provided in the area of the longest transverse strings (4).

21. The ball game racket according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to at least two neighboring longitudinal strings (4) without substantially coupling said strings with each other.

22. The ball game racket according to any one of claims 17 to 21, wherein the dampening device (10) is fixed to four neighboring longitudinal strings (4) without substantially coupling said strings with each other.